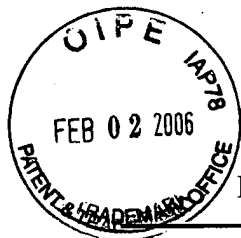


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REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116  
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE  
EXAMINING GROUP 2128



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: 10/008,271  
Filed: November 9, 2001  
Inventor(s):  
James P. Freyensee, Carl  
Cavanagh, Steven A. Sivier, and  
Carl B. Frankel

Title: Hot Plug and Hot Pull  
System Simulation

§ Examiner: Phan, Thai Q.  
§ Group/Art Unit: 2128  
§ Atty. Dkt. No: 5181-96500  
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date indicated below.

Lawrence J. Merkel

Printed Name

*[Handwritten Signature]*  
Signature

1/30/06  
Date

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION OF  
December 29, 2005**

**MAIL STOP AF**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This paper is submitted in response to the Office Action of December 29, 2005, to further highlight why the application is in condition for allowance.